

Message Text

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40

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02 IGA-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /055 W

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R 300908Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8034

DOD

INFO JCS

CNO

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC

CINCPACREPPHIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 13742

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARRR, RP

SUBJECT: ALLOCATION OF CAMBODIA/VIETNAM EQUIPMENT

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

JOINT EMBASSY/MAG MESSAGE

REF: (A) STATE/DEFENSE 221711Z AUG 75

(B) DA 261732Z SEP 75

1. GOP HAS PROVIDED WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF ITS
ACCEPTANCE OF VIETNAM/CAMBODIA EQUIPMENT (REF. A) IN
FORMAL LETTER FROM AFP CHIEF OF STAFF TO CHIEF JUSMAG.
TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS:

"DEAR GENERAL SADLER: SEPTEMBER 16, 1975

THIS HAS REFERENCE TO THE LETTER OF AMBASSADOR WILLIAM
H. SULLIVAN TO SECRETARY JUAN PONCE ENRILE DATED AUGUST 30,
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1975 REGARDING THE LIST OF U.S. NAVAL VESSELS AND AIR-

CRAFTS OFFERED FOR SALE AND TRANSFER TO THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT.

AFTER A CURSORY REVIEW AND STUDY OF THE OFFER, WE ARE PLEASED TO INFORM YOU THAT OUR POSITION ON THE MATTER IS TO ACCEPT AS OFFERED ALL THE AIRCRAFTS IN THAILAND, ALL THE NAVAL VESSELS LOCATED AT SUBIC, AND TENTATIVELY THOSE IN JAPAN DEPENDING ON THE RESULT OF A TECHNICAL INSPECTION TO BE CONDUCTED LATER ON THESE VESSELS. THE NAVAL VESSELS AND AIRCRAFTS WILL BE ACQUIRED TO AUGMENT AND SUPPORT THE MUCH NEEDED REQUIREMENTS OF THE AFP FOR SAID ITEMS WHICH ARE PRESENTLY BARELY ENOUGH IN THE INVENTORY.

WE ASSURE YOU THAT MAINTENANCE AND MANNING OF THESE EQUIPMENT WILL NOT BE A PROBLEM BECAUSE OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE RESOURCES AND CAPABILITIES WERE CONSIDERED BEFORE ARRIVING AT THIS DECISION.

YOUR FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF THE AFP POSITION WILL BE HIGHLY APPRECIATED.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR CONCERN AND MY WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS.

SINCERELY YOURS,

/S/ R. C. ESPINO
GENERAL, AFP
CHIEF OF STAFF"

2. ALTHOUGH NAVAL PORTION OF ESPINO LETTER APPEARS TO ADDRESS ONLY VESSELS AT SUBIC (AND JAPAN), AFP CLEARLY INTENDED INCLUDE AS WELL TUG AND LST AT GUAM.

3. A QUESTION DOES ARISE, HOWEVER, CONCERNING THE ARMY TUG AT GUAM, THE PRICE OF WHICH WAS NOT AVAILABLE WHEN ESPINO SENT HIS LETTER. WE WERE ADVISED ON 27 SEPTEMBER (REF. B) THAT THE FMS SALE PRICE FOR THE TUG IS \$142,000, ONE OF THE HIGHEST PRICED VESSELS ON THE LIST, EVEN
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HIGHER THAN THE DESTROYER ESCORT (DER) AND THE COAST GUARD CUTTERS (WHECS). WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHY THE PRICE IS SO HIGH FOR A VESSEL WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS IN POOR CONDITION AND PROBABLY IN NEED OF A MAJOR OVERHAUL. WE DO NOT RPT NOT PLAN TO DISCUSS WITH AFP PRICE OF TUG UNTIL WE HAVE A REASONABLE FIGURE BACKED BY A CONVINCING RATIONALE. IT IS LIKELY AFP WILL WANT TO INSPECT TUG BEFORE COMMITTING ITSELF TO ANY SUBSTANTIAL

SALE PRICE.

4. WE RECOMMEND THAT STATE AND DOD INSURE THAT THE
WHEELS ARE TURNING TO FULFILL LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS
(NOTIFICATION OR APPROVAL) FOR THOSE VESSELS ON THE
PHILIPPINE LIST FALLING WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF CONGRESS.
IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THESE VESSELS ARE THE DER, THE
ARL MACHINE SHOP CRAFT, THE AGPS PATROL CRAT, THE TWO
WHECS, AN LST, A PCER PATROL VESSEL, THE YOG OILER,
AND A PCF PATROL CRAFT.
SULLIVAN

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